

Supervisor Romaine Announces Town Plan to Purchase 120 Acres in Carmans River Watershed for Open Space

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Farmingville, NY - On October 14, Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine was joined by Town officials, environmental groups, civic members and local residents to announce plans for the Town to purchase 120 acres for open space in the Carmans River watershed. The parcel is part of what is known as the Silveri property, the largest privately-owned parcel in the Carmans River watershed. The northeastern section of the property is in the 2-5 year groundwater contributing area to the River, the bulk of the parcel is within the 10-25 year groundwater contributing area; and the southwestern part of the parcel is within the 25-50 groundwater contributing area of the River. The property abuts approximately 30 acres of existing town-owned open space to the north and east and lies entirely within the Compatible Growth Area of the Central Pine Barrens. Pictured left to right are Supervisor Romaine, are Richard Amper, Executive Director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society and Councilwoman Connie Kepert.

"The purchase of this property will be remembered as a landmark event in the history of the Carmans River," said Supervisor Romaine. "Preserving open space is critical to the life of the river and our efforts to maintain the quality of our groundwater supply. Every step we take to protect the Carmans River is a testament to our firm commitment to preserve this environmentally sensitive area for generations to come."

"My highest priority is to dedicate open space funds to preserve lands that will protect this great river. The purchase of the Silveri property which consists of 120 acres of prized open space will help to keep the great Carmans River pristine for decades to come," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

Richard Amper, Executive Director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society said, "The Silveri property has been on the Pine Barrens Society's list of the Top Ten priorities for preservation for a decade. It's in the Pine Barrens, the Carmans River watershed and the hearts of everyone who cares about nature. Supervisor Romaine and the Brookhaven Town Board deserve kudos for accomplishing this acquisition.

"Today is a great day for the Town of Brookhaven. The Carmans River is one of just four major rivers on all of Long Island, and it plays a key role in both human ecology and the natural systems of the region," said Marcia Bystry, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters. "This plan will not only help safeguard a key habitat along the Atlantic Migratory Flyway, it will also help protect drinking water quality for residents. We applaud Supervisor Romaine, and we look forward to working with Town leaders, civic groups and local environmentalists to help



implement this plan without delay."

Johan McConnell, past president of the South Yaphank Civic Association said, "The acquisition of the Silveri property is great news for all the supporters of the Carmans River Watershed Management Plan. It has been a long time coming and I wish to thank Supervisor Ed Romaine, Councilwoman Connie Kepert and all the Town Board members for the support they have shown for the plan and the community of Yaphank."

"The purchase of the 120-acre Silveri tract is a stunning advance towards the goal of long-term protection and preservation of the watershed of the

Carmans River, an ecological and cultural treasure in the heart of the Town of Brookhaven. We warmly commend Supervisor Romaine and the entire Town Council for this extraordinary undertaking," added James T. B. Tripp, Senior Counsel of the Environmental Defense Fund, a national environmental organization founded in the Town of Brookhaven in 1967.

Based on basic groundwater recharge models for Long Island, the protected open space will recharge approximately 90,110,000 gallons of pure water annually to the underlying aquifers, enough water to meet the annual water supply needs of approximately 1,900 Brookhaven residents while helping to maintain water quality in the Carmans River.

The site is extensively wooded, containing several different type of woodland communities native to the Long Island Pine Barrens. Given its size, vegetated and undisturbed nature, the parcel provides seasonal and year-round habitat for hundreds of mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, insect, and woody and non-woody plant species. For example, several species of birds-of-prey are known to nest in the property, including red-tailed hawks. The topography of the parcel is varied, ranging in elevation from 60 feet above sea level in the northeastern section and rising to 125 feet above sea level in the northwestern corner of the property. A steeply-sloped morainal ridge, with slopes that reach 20%, runs in a northwesterly-southeasterly direction through the property.

The Town's planned acquisition is a "Stipulation of Settlement" with the property owner, Silver Corporate Park LLC as a result of a lawsuit filed with the Supreme Court of the State of New York. The entire parcel is 192 acres, 120 of which will be purchased by the Town. The remaining 72 acres will continue to be zoned L Industrial 1, with 25 acres to remain undeveloped open space as part of any future site plans. The 47 acres adjacent to the Long Island Expressway North Service Road will be available for future development, providing significant tax dollars for the Town and the Longwood Central School District. The total cost to the Town is \$12,000,000.

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